

**THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO BOARD APPROVAL AT THE NEXT
ESSEX ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
ESSEX TOWN HALL
February 12, 2014 - 4:00pm**

The Essex Economic Development Commission was held on Wednesday, February 12, 2014 at 4:00pm. In attendance were Lon Seidman, John Beveridge, Betsy D'Amico Ed Cook, Robert Laundry and David Sousa. Also in attendance Kelley Frazier, Secretary to the Commission. Absent: David Winstead, Ed Cook, Robert Laundry

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Seidman at 4:00pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon a motion made by John Beveridge and seconded by Betsy D'Amico the Commission unanimously **VOTED** to approve the minutes from the December 2013 Essex Economic Development Commission meeting.

Visitors:

Judie Heiser from the Essex Board of Trade
Susan Malan EDC Consultant.
Jerry Roberts

Commissioners:

None

REPORT FROM TOWN HALL

Ms. Malan discussed her report which was previously distributed.

COMMUNICATIONS/PUBLIC COMMENT

Battle site Essex Presentation

Jerry Roberts, who previously worked at the Connecticut River Museum, was present and explained the bicentennial observation of the British Raid on Essex during the Battle of 1812. Mr. Roberts discussed the events being planned that will commemorate the burning of the ships in Essex harbor and the battle against the British. Mr. Roberts has requested that Essex be considered a state battle site. A marketing grant has been applied for from the state Department of Tourism and this will be matched by contributions from people of the town.

Public Comment

None

ACTION ITEMS

None

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Home Offices

This has been resolved.

Referrals from Zoning

Ms. Malan discussed the zoning regarding establishments serving liquor in Ivoryton. The Blue Hound will be going to the Zoning Board of Appeals to request a liquor license. Ms. Malan and Mr. Seidman will draft two letters. One will request changes to the 200 foot spacing requirement for granting liquor licenses to restaurants. The other will support the application by the Blue Hound restaurant.

Upon a motion made by John Beveridge and seconded by David Sousa the Economic Development Commission unanimously **VOTED** to draft two letters. One letter to Zoning will request the 200 foot space requirement for issuing liquor licenses to neighboring business be repealed and the second will be to the ZBA in favor of the repeal and to support the application by the Blue Hound for a liquor license. The motion passed.

Signage

No discussion.

STEAP & Ivoryton Grants

Work to be done with the monies from the Ivoryton Grant is being decided.

Farmer's Market Grant

The first hurdle has been surpassed.

Centerbrook Grant

There is a meeting scheduled for March 19th at 7:00pm at Essex Elementary school to form a Steering Committee. There has been a formal request to waive the RFP for the required consultant on the project. A date for the next meeting will be confirmed in the next week.

NEW BUSINESS

There is a grant opportunity with Connecticut State of the Arts that may work be available for Ivoryton. The Ivoryton Alliance has been contacted to decide if they want to pursue this grant. Mr. Beveridge discussed the comprehensive plan previously completed. This plan may help the Ivoryton Alliance. Ms. Malan will find this document and give it to the proper people.

Executive Session – Personnel Matter

Upon a motion made by John Beveridge and seconded by Betsy D’Amico the Economic Development Commission unanimously **VOTED** to add to the Executive Session agenda a confidential business matter. Ms. Malan was invited to attend the Confidential Business Matter discussion, but will not attend the personnel matter discussion. The motion passed.

On a motion duly made and seconded the Commission unanimously **VOTED** to move into Executive Session at 4:55p.m to discuss a personnel matter.

The Commission Moved out of Executive Session at 5:20pm.

On a motion by John Beveridge and seconded by Betsy D’Amico the Commission unanimously **VOTED** to continue the consulting position for the remainder of the fiscal year. It was noted that an equal amount was requested for next year’s budget.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion duly made and seconded the Commission unanimously **VOTED** to adjourn at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelley Frazier, Commission Secretay